Dear Art, 6/8/77

This is a reminder to me for when I am there and information for you you are to keep to yourself until I am there. Plus what you may, as I did, take as fun staff.

You are going to get a package for me with my return address. My return address is not to disclose the source - to anyone. It will hold a reel-to-reel tape. The first part of that tape is the insane conversation Hall had with the unspeakable Weberman.

Please try to be prepared to make a dub, for him, you, his lawyer, no restriction from me. There is also on that tape what will be restricted but it just happens that way and it has no connection with Hall. You and I will listen to that alone. I think we'll blow Skip's mind!

There has already been a PSE job on the tape. I do not have all the results. The heaviest stress, taken as gross lying, is where Hall actually said he does not know Hemming. Next heaviest in the early part, the only part on which I have results, if they can generally be called that, is where Trafficante was mentioned. The stress there is of a nature that can represent concern as much as falsehood.

I don't want Skip to know any of this until I play it for him- and tape the playing. You do that and we'll have fun!

You can tell him this because I was sure it would happen. The committee does have the transcripts of my interviews with him and Howard. I was sure they would so I loaned my copies to Vryson Mills, his lawyer.

What is really wild is that somehow they did not get these until after they subpoenaed him. I'm not sure but I think they did not get them until last Thursday. Blew minds again. However, while there were time pressures I think I gave Bryson more than the committee has.

Now for the fun stuff, what I was not aware of, did not think of until later and would have loved to have observed.

As I told you I had a meeting with four FBI agents with Jim. It was kind of heavy. I'd been pouring out strong FOIA complaints and had told them look, straighten out or I go back to the judge. By now they know me well enough to know that when I speak this way ai am serious. I may not always be able to do what I want to but I do want to. So they opted the lesser-evil course and I think that particular situation will now be better.

This lasted until the time the hearing was to have begun. I got there about 15 minutes after the scheduled beginning. The large room was crowded but there was a seat in next to the back row at the end, as far away but for that one seat as I could be from the witness seat. It just happened to be next to a college student I know. I was talking to someone, I think Bud who was sitting ahead of me when this student says hey, Hall is waving at you and smiling. So I looked up and smiled and waved back and continued this very short conversation. Short because Skip interrupted it. We spoke briefly, he said he'd like us to get together and he went back to the witness chair. I gave no thought to the attention this attracted because of the conversations in which I was engaged, this now meaning Bud. Almost immediately the hearing started, it ended almost immediately, too, and several people came up to me. I did take a glance at Hall, saw he was surrounded by others, and was talking to some friends when Hall came and said lets go. We did. Again I had no thought of how others would react-even then if they would. We walked down the corridor together. I drew aside when he was with Burke, and then he and Bryson and Kathy and Larnder and I left together. Lardner was delayed joining us.

What I am now told is that it all had the committee bug-eyed. Some of the audience, too. It also is the only one of their meetings to which I've gone. I was by myself doing nothing to attract any attention and had not even stopped to think that the witness seeking me out had been noticed. If I'd thought, as I did later, I'd have been sure it would.

From the time you told me the hearing did not begin until 11 I knew that there was no scheduled spectacular media event for yesterday. That also was not on my mind. What was had no relationship to the committee or Hall. Although the session with the FBI agents was one in which I could walk around, and this did relieve the sweelling and ~~the~~ discomfort in my feet, they were still swollen and uncomfortable. The bus from here to there was crowded. I was luck to get a seat. But I could not get my feet up. This makes the blood puddle in them until I can exercise the legs enough to permit the muscles to force blood back up. With this experience not having the same one on the way back was on my mind, as was the meeting with the FBI people.

I'm really sorry I was not alert to what the situation was. I'm sure I'd have relished observing it. Particularly because this was the day after Wendell Rawls' New York Times article, ~~striking~~ straight, solid and understated, laid another load on them.

You realise that no committee people are phoning me and whispering in my ear. But I'm getting this kind of feedback: He could get these people to speak that way nine years ago? He had this kind of information then and we can't get him to say a word now? Plus other references to my work and the very obvious that I did nothing to arrange, Skip's obvious trust in or friendship for me after those interviews, demonstrated by his seeking me out so publicly. I think that may yet turn out to have some value for him. None of this means anything to me except that there is some temporary enjoyment in it. If he had planned a gesture I doubt he could have come up with one of more meaning than his I'm sure spontaneous act. If any of those characters were looking at me they had to know it was unrehearsed beginning with my nkt getting there until what should have been late and my unawareness that Hall had come up to me. Particularly because they had just obtained that transcript of mine there is no one way in which Hall could have more eloquently told them off. And I'm certain nothing like this was in his mind.

Now as a matter of evidence- and committees arenot bound by the rules of evidence - there is no way they can authenticate those transcripts. They do not have the tapes from which they are transcribed. They will not dare to subpoena me and if they did I'd tell them I would not testify to nay of my work and they have no right to try to take it. I do know who did the transcription but that person was not present at any of the three or four interviews. So if Hall stands on his constitutional rights there is nothing to keep them from putting the transcripts into the record and there will be nothing in the record to say that somebody did not make it all up.

This business is really low-grade soap opera. I learned enough new from Hall yesterday yo virtually guarantee some wild stuff if they pull some of the witnesses I can guess. Harry Dean will come apart. Especially because Hall is not hung no about who his wife was bedding with. He picked it up quickly when I asked him about the guy who had the movie house, saying no more about him. With his typical expletives and unembarrassed by the presence of the young woman lawyer-assistant Bryson had he said sure, he knew what was going on. Dean was in there too. It will really, one way or more, degenerate into very low comedy.

There was no comfort in Mud(sliggers)ville yesterday from the little feedback I'm getting. Between what they did to themselves and what was unrehearsed.

My scenario, assassins committee lingo choreography, is that when I am there you and your wife, Hall and his and I get together and we play him the tape of his Weberman conversation cold. No prelude, no explanations, no clue. Iceberg cold. And tape it. I think it will be rare fun. So don't give it away. Don't tell even Jody. Let's enjoy.

Best,